

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/619,470

Examiner

Thomas A. Morrison

Applicant(s)

ASADA ET AL.

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the 10/04/2005 Amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 7/16/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert A. Miller (Registration No. 32,771) on October 21, 2005.

In claim 1, line 10 before "friction", -- first -- has been inserted.

In claim 7, line 11 before "friction", -- first -- as been inserted.

In claim 13, line 5 before "up", "an" has been deleted.

In claim 13, line 5 before "relative", "direction" has been changed to -- directions -

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

U.S. Patent No. 3,989,238 (McCarthy et al.) is the closest prior art reference to independent claims 1 and 7 of the instant application. With regard to independent claims 1 and 7, the McCarthy et al. patent discloses a sheet supply device including a hopper portion, a sheet feed mechanism with a sheet-supply roller, and a first friction member, that is provided at a position near a lower end of an inclined wall of the hopper portion and corresponding to a position where the sheet-supply roller is provided,

slidably movable along the inclined wall between a normal position where the first friction member is located during a normal sheet feed operation, and a second position upstream of the normal position in the sheet feed direction. However, the McCarthy patent fails to disclose or suggest that the first friction member moves, as claimed. More specifically, the McCarthy patent fails to disclose that the first friction member moves toward the second position when a sheet is fed in a direction opposite to the sheet feed direction and the sheet contacts the first friction member, as claimed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,502,816 (Innoue et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,546,210 (Nakamura) is the closest combination of prior art references to independent claim 13 of the instant application. Innoue et al. in view of Nakamura discloses a sheet supply device for a printing device, including a paper hopper with bottom surface, an inclined sheet receiving surface and a pair of adjustable sheet side edge guides; a first friction member slidably received on the inclined sheet receiving surface, the first friction member being slideable in up and down directions relative to the printing device; and a sheet feed mechanism with a sheet feed roller. However, Innoue et al. in view of Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest a first friction member that moves, as claimed. More specifically, Innoue et al. in view of Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest a first friction member that is normally located at a first position opposing the sheet feed roller with the sheets therebetween and takes a second position upwardly of the first position when a paper sheet is fed in a direction opposite to a print feed direction and is in contact with the first friction member.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Walsh can be reached on (571) 272-6944. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


DONALD P. WALSH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600